

The Heterodyne

Newsletter of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association

April Meeting

**“Ham Radio in Ethiopia”
by Jim DeLoach, WU0I**

**Wednesday April 10
Meeting Starts at 7pm**

Meeting Location:
American Red Cross
Silicon Valley Chapter
2731 N. First Street at Plumeria Dr
(southwest corner) in San Jose

Map at www.wvara.org/meetings.html

WVARA Repeaters (W6PIY)		
Band	Frequency	PL
6 Meters	52.580- MHz	151.4 Hz
2 Meters	147.39+ MHz	151.4 Hz
1.25 Meters	223.96- MHz	156.7 Hz
0.70 Meter	441.35+ MHz	88.5 Hz
0.23 Meter	1286.2- MHz	100 Hz

Club Net

WVARA's club net is on the W6PIY repeaters each Tuesday at 8:30 pm. All repeaters are linked together during the net. The net script can be found at www.wvara.org/net.html.

Visitors Are Welcome!

About the Presentation

Have you ever wanted to be that rare DX station and be on the other end of the pile-ups? Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be in a country where you can count the number of amateur radio operators on your fingers and toes, instead of being yet another Silicon Valley Ham? Come hear Jim DeLoach, who served a few years ago as a United States Foreign Service Officer in Addis Ababa, talk about Amateur Radio in Ethiopia!

Ethiopia should be Ham Radio paradise, but shipping and import constraints, high noise levels in this crowded third world city, and most importantly suspicious and unmotivated local officials make hamming a challenge. Learn how Jim overcame these obstacles, what it was like to be that rare DX station for a change, and how the Ethiopian Amateur Radio Society (EARS) club station, ET3AA, and its founder Sid, ET3SID, (now a SK) played a critical role in getting Ethiopia on the air, at least for a while.

Hope to see you there - Jim K6EI.

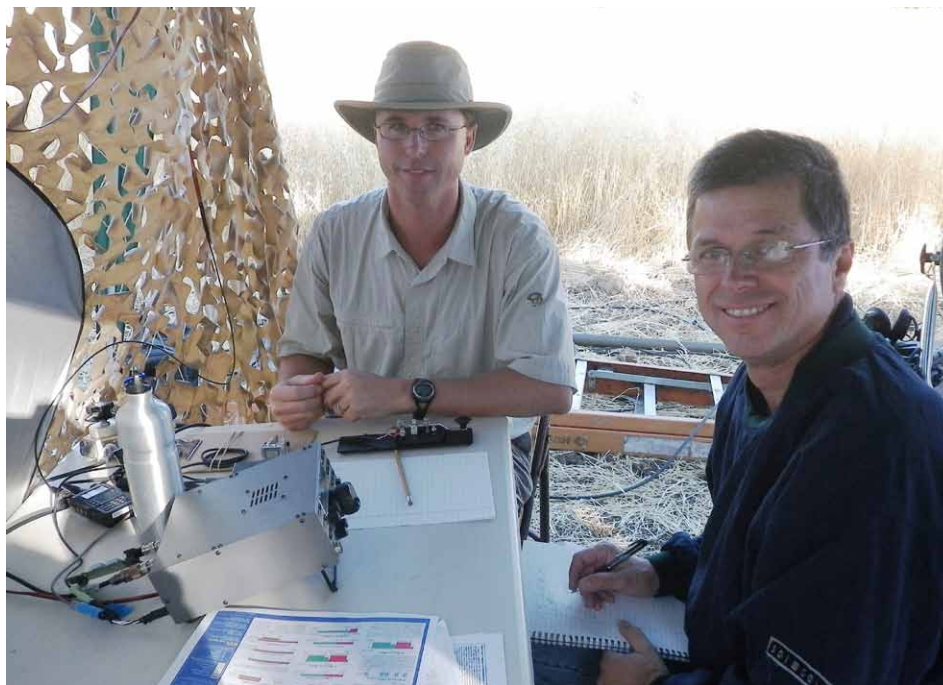


Photo by Maggie DeLoach

Rich Makes a GOTA CW Contact by Bill Frantz - AE6JV

It's late in the evening in the GOTA tent. I'm the resident coach and I'm thinking of shutting down for the evening so I can get some operating time on one of the main transmitters. One of the new hams in our club, Rich WE6AAI comes in and asks, "Is it OK if I use my straight key?"

Rich decided to become a ham when he heard about the Rockmite radio <<http://smallwonder-labs.com/Rockmite.htm>> talking around the world on 500 milliwatts. He had bitten the bullet, learned CW, and earned a license a few months ago.



Nick KZ2V and Rick WE6AAI discuss the fine art of making QSOs with a straight key. *Photo by Bill AE6JV.*

I shudder. The last time I had copied CW was during my license test, back when Amateur Extra class licensees had to copy 5 WPM. Rich obviously knows more about what we are doing than I do.

So we plug the straight key into the K2 and start tuning across the CW portion of the band. We quickly find a station sending, "CQ FD" and listen long enough to both be sure we have copied his call correctly. Rich taps out "W6ZZZ" and we hear "W6ZZZ" followed by his exchange. Rich then sends, "7A SCV W6ZZZ" and we hear, "TU QRZ". We log the exchange and smile at each other. We've made a field day contact.

2012 Visalia International DX Convention

April 19, 20 & 21, 2013

<http://www.dxconvention.org/>



IDXC is one of the most popular DX conventions of the year. If you're a DXer or interested in any aspect of Ham radio, then IDXC is the place to be. Top DX operators from around the world will be there. There are seminars for everyone from the seasoned pro to the beginning DXer. Visit the Exhibit Hall, where you can talk to the people who design and use the best DX equipment. We have some great raffle Prizes the likes of which top even the famed Dayton Hamvention. And don't forget the "Non-Hams" who attend — we have a Special Tour for them as well.

To register and see the latest information about IDXC, go to www.dxconvention.org

Microwave/UHF/VHF Club

If you are interested in checking out the local microwave/UHF/VHF club, the 50 MHz and Up Group of Northern California, the website is at <http://www.50mhzandup.org/>

HF Band Conditions

The SFI has been in the mid-130's to mid-140's for the last several days, with the K index usually around 1. The HF bands have been hopping! Last Saturday night at 11pm local time, Rumen, LZ1MS (Bulgaria) was so loud on 20m SSB that he sounded like he was in the Bay Area!

For Sale By George, N6NKT:

LMR-400-75, used for antenna testing, no connectors,
196ft for \$100 and **250ft** for \$125.

Contact George Williams, N6NKT, n6nkt AT yahoo.com

Send Buy and Sell information to: het_editor AT wvara.org

Electronics Flea Market

Host:

American Red Cross, Silicon Valley Chapter

www.electronicfleamarket.com/schedule

The next flea market is: **Saturday, April 13**

The market opens around 5:00am
and closes at 12:00 Noon.

Amateur Radio Exam Sessions

The Silicon Valley VE Group holds amateur radio exam sessions twice monthly in Saratoga. For more information, visit <http://www.svve.org>, or contact Morris Jones, AD6ZH, at (408) 507-4698 or mojoteri@comcast.net.



Gil - Courtesy March 1956 QST

Rediscovered by Tom Dunbar, W6ESL

2013 West Valley Amateur Radio Association Officers

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The Heterodyne is published monthly by the West Valley Amateur Radio Association and sent to all club members via the web. Please obtain permission from the author to re-publish any article in this publication.

Membership Renewal Reminder

Don't forget to renew your WVARA membership. The fastest and easiest way to renew is with Paypal - go to <http://www.wvara.org/membership.html> and select a Pay Now button. After logging into Paypal, please open and fill in the box on the left titled "Name, Call Sign, Address, Phone, Email". Or bring a check or cash to the meeting. Checks can also be mailed to WVARA, P.O. Box 6544, San Jose, CA 95150-6544.

See You At The Meeting!